

bottoms where it is near the surface so that it is only slightly embedded in the bottom.

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## A NEW SPECIES OF MESODON FROM THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

BY LESLIE HUBRICHT

MESODON (INFLECTARIUS) VERUS new species

Shell imperforate, translucent, pale reddish-brown to cream-buff colored, depressed, spire convex or low conoid, whorls 5-5.5, periphery rounded, with a prominent crest and deep gutter behind the lip. First two whorls with radially elongated granules, third whorl with radial wrinkles and some spiral striae, spiral striae disappearing on the last two whorls, and radial wrinkles becoming more prominent with numerous erect triangular periostracal processes. Peristome white, rather widely reflected, thickened within, especially in the base, without teeth, outer lip somewhat dished, concave, descending in front. Parietal tooth well developed, long and slightly curved.

Diam. 13.5 mm., height 7.2 mm. Holotype.

Diam. 14.6 mm., height 7.8 mm. Largest paratype.

Diam. 12.1 mm., height 6.1 mm. Smallest paratype.

*Type locality.*—3570 ft., ravine, head of Mt. Sterling Creek, 1 mile north of Mt. Sterling Gap, Haywood Co., North Carolina. Holotype 607137 and paratypes 607138 U.S.N.M., paratypes 191211 A.N.S.P., and 12640 collection of the author.

*Mesodon verus* may be readily distinguished from all other members of the subgenus *Inflectarius* by the complete absence of teeth on the peristome. It bears a strong resemblance to *Mesodon subpalliatu*s (Pilsbry) from which it may be distinguished by the difference in color, the prominent crest behind the lip, the strongly concave outer lip, and the longer and lower parietal tooth.

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## VARIATION IN THE OLIVE SHELLS OF TROPICAL WEST AMERICA

By HOWARD R. HILL

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In nearly every family of univalve mollusks, certain species show considerable variation in color, size and shape. In the olive shell family there are a number of variable forms found on the West Coast from Mexico to Chile. One species in particular, *Olive spicata* Röding, is so variable that twenty-eight different names have been applied to it and its nine varieties. No two authorities have agreed on the nomenclature for these forms. Consequently, students and collectors have long been confused as to the proper scientific names to use for them.

It is the hope of the writer that this paper will be helpful in the identification of the above-mentioned variable species. In addition, the variation in other olive shells of the tropical West Coast will be discussed.

1. *OLIVA SPICATA SPICATA* Röding. Typical *O. spicata* is a common species, 2½ inches in length, ranging from West Mexico to Panama Bay. The typical form is found in the same regions as many of its color varieties. The shell is elongate with a moderate spire. The color of the aperture is white. Externally, the ground color is light gray or light yellow, shaded with a loose network of brown, pink-gray or blackish markings. The net-